Statement

Year-wise detail of production of fruits

(Production (in '000' MT)

Name of Fruit	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09 (3rd Advance)
Pineapple	1353	1362	1247	1354
Apple	1756	1624	2001	1985
Mango	12538	13734	13997	12831
Citrus	6326	7145	8038	8528
Guava	1823	1831	1981	2330
Papaya	2317	2482	2904	3641
Pomegranate	849	840	884	856
Sapota	1117	1216	1258	1309
Banana	18702	20998	23861	27119
Litchi	381	403	418	433
Grapes	1631	1685	1733	1764
Others	9947	6244	7280	7303
TOTAL :	58740	59564	65602	69453

Source : National Horticulture Board

Organic paddy cultivation in Palakkad district

152. SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN:

SHRI K.E. ISMAIL:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that some farmers from Vadakkencherry in Palakkad district of Kerala had switched over to organic paddy cultivation two years ago with support from local Panchayat and State Agriculture Department and were depending upon export of their produce to remain sustainable;

(b) if so, the details of this experiment and Government's reaction thereto;

(c) whether Government is also aware that these farmers find it difficult to sell their produce in the domestic market since their cost price is more than ordinary paddy; and

(d) if so, whether Government will consider to lift ban on organic rice export imposed in 2007 to encourage organic farming?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) As per information available, a group of farmers from Vadakkencherry in Palakkad district of Kerala have switched over to organic paddy cultivation.

(b) and (c) 13 farmers have switched over to organic paddy cultivation in 18.74 ha. The group was registered with Indian Organic Certification Agency (INDOCERT), Thottumugham (Kerala) during April, 2008 for organic certification. While the cost of production of organic rice is more during initial years of conversion, the yield gap narrows down in 2 to 3 years and comparable yields can be obtained thereafter. At that stage the cost of organic paddy is comparable to conventional paddy.

(d) A proposal has been formulated to permit export of certified organic non-basmati rice subject to a quantitative ceiling.

Devastation in agricultur due to recent floods in South India

153. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has conducted any survey to study the devastation in agriculture due to recent floods in Southern States especially in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has taken any steps for providing compensation to the farmers affected by the recent floods; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (d) The Ministry of Home Affairs is concerned in the matter and necessary information is being collected from them.

Steps to boost production of forthcoming winter crops

154. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of estimated production of Kharif crops this year *vis-a-vis* premonsoon estimation;

(b) the details of regions where Kharif crops have proved to be absolute failure due to the monsoon failure, indicating estimated volume of crop loss and those areas which got late monsoon indicating corresponding volume loss;

(c) whether loss of Kharif crops is expected to be off-set by yields of winter crops due to *inter alia* substantial rainfall albeit late; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by Government to ensure larger production of winter crops especially in areas suffered by loss of Kharif crops?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) As per the 1st Advance Estimates, production of Kharif foodgrain crops in the country is estimated at 96.63 million tonnes against a target of 125.15 million tonnes for the year 2009-10.